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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CIRCULATE

Output

1. Output of electricity in the Eastern Zone, including the Soviet Sector of Berlin, which had amounted to 7.4 billion KW/hrs in the 2nd half of 1948, rose to 8 billion KW/hrs in the 1st half of 1949. In addition, a small amount of current was produced by smaller plants, which fall outside the production program.

2. Altogether 213 power stations are engaged in the production program. The capacity of installed machines amounts to 3,887 MW. They include 47 power stations which serve the general supply system, are controlled by the H.V. Energie of the DWK, and are equipped with a total installed capacity of 1,206 MW. Output of these large zonally controlled power stations was not higher in the 1st half of 1949 than it had been in the 2nd half of 1948; in each case the total figure amounted to about 2,570 billion KW/hrs.

3. On the other hand, the output of power stations belonging to industrial firms showed some rise. Output from power stations run by the coal mines showed an increase from 500 to 507 billion KW/hrs, but still fell short of their target by 6%. A considerable improvement was shown by otherwise relatively unimportant plants which serve other industrial undertakings. They were able to raise their output from 242 to 312 billion Kw/hrs. Power stations controlled by the Länder and private management also put up a relatively good performance. They raised their output from 811 to 946 billion KW/hrs. Since, however, the major power stations, which are run by H.V. Energie, were only able to maintain their output at the previous level, total output of the German controlled plants only rose from 4.1 to 4.3 billion KW/hrs, i.e. an increase of 5%.

4. Those power stations which have been turned into SAGs made better progress. Their contribution to total output amounts to 45%. As against the 2nd half of 1948, output in the 1st half of 1949 was increased by 11% and reached a total of 3.6 billion KW/hrs.

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5. The combined output of electricity from German and from Soviet plants was increased by 7.7%. The corresponding target, however, for the 1st half of 1949 was 16%. The deficit is being officially attributed to unforeseen snags, to the fact that machine parts have been lying blocked in Berlin, and to the fact that water supplies in the first quarter of 1949 were inadequate.

Performance of Individual Power Stations

6. Of the major power stations only Zschornewitz and Harbke succeeded in raising their output . They were pushed to the limit of their capacity. At Zschornewitz the peak load was sustained at a rate of 6,900 hours per annum and at Harbke at a rate of 6,400 hours per annum.

7. The desperate condition of the plants was shown up by repeated breakdowns at many other power stations:

a. Magdeburg: Output is still restricted by damaged plant.

b. Grosskayna: One turbine was out of action from 13 January 1948 to 11 April 1949, and was again under repair by mid-June. Another broke down from the end of May 1948 to mid-April 1949 and a third from mid-January to the beginning of June 1949.

c. Leopold Plant: Mechanical breakdowns in both plants.

d. Gardelegen: Reconstruction of the fuelling plant was necessary, with the result that the power station had to be shut down from 16 April 1949.

e. Finow: Was shut down at the beginning of April 1949 on account of defective plant and prolonged boiler trouble; partial operation may be resumed in August.

Wolgast: Is lacking an inductor.

Difficulties with coils, as well as with boilers and turbines, are responsible in many other power stations for failing output and shutdowns.

Repairs

8. a. Turbo-generators. The 1949 plan provided that turbo-generators forming a capacity of 714 MW should be repaired. Actually in the first half of 1949 repairs on generators with a capacity of 487 MW were started, but by the middle of the year repairs were only completed on generators with a total capacity of 149 MW.

b. Boilers. The situation was similar. The 1949 plan provides that boiler plants with a capacity of 4,464 tons of steam should be repaired. During the first half of 1949 repairs on boiler plants with a capacity of 3,013 t/h had been started but work was completed on boilers with a total output of only 1,613 t/h.

c. To material difficulties in the execution of the repair plan were added administrative snags. The plan was drawn up on a regional basis. Its exact implementation involving the distribution of the necessary material and equipment for the individual repair jobs took up a long time, with the result that contracts could be settled only after much delay. The distribution of needed materials did not take place until the second half of the second quarter of 1949. The plan for a second half year of 1949 can be implemented only if the delviery of material is improved.

Load Problem

9. A further major difficulty confronting the supply system was presented by the consumption problem. Despite all attempts to spread the load over the entire day, the consumption is still concentrated on certain periods of the day. The awkward problem presented by peak periods during the morning is increasingly noticeable. Despite the help of the peak load stations (sometimes on an uneconomic basis) the demand cannot be met; in consequence, particularly in the 2nd quarter of 1949, drastic restrictions and power cuts had to be put into effect. Conversely, consumption during the afternoon and night decreases to an undesirable extent, so that the stations carrying the basic load have to reduce the output.

10. Total Electricity Output

	In Million Kilowatt Hours			
	2nd Half of 1948		1st Half of 1949	
Zonally-controlled Power Plants		3,314		3,399
General Supply	2,572		2,570	
Power plants of coal mines	500		517	
Power plants of industrial plants	242		312	
State- and privately owned power plants		811		946
Soviet owned power plants (Soviet AGs)		3,261		3,608
Total Output:		7,386		7,953